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STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Djibouti: draft resolution

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/21 F of 20 December 1994 and its previous resolutions on economic assistance to Djibouti,

Recalling also the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 1/ adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, as well as the mutual commitments undertaken on that occasion and the importance attached to the follow-up to that Conference,

Distressed by the large number of persons afflicted by the torrential rains and unprecedented flooding in Djibouti in November 1994, and by the significant damage and devastation to property and infrastructure,

Noting that the economic and social development efforts of Djibouti, which is included in the list of least developed countries, are constrained by the extremes of the local climate, in particular cyclical droughts and torrential rains and floods such as those which occurred in 1989 and 1994, and that the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes, as well as that of the demobilization programme, requires the deployment of substantial resources which exceed the real capacity of the country,

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1/ A/CONF.147/18, part one

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Noting with concern that the situation in Djibouti has been made worse by the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa and in particular in Somalia, and noting the presence of over 100,000 refugees and persons displaced from their countries, which has, on the one hand, placed serious strains on the fragile economic, social and administrative infrastructure of the country and, on the other, caused serious security problems,

Noting also the difficult economic and financial situation of Djibouti resulting in part from the number of priority development projects that have had to be suspended in view of serious developments in the international situation, and in part from the prolonged effects of the previous regional conflicts, notably in Somalia, which have disrupted services, transport and trade and which are draining the State of most of its revenues,

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of Djibouti has approved the structural adjustment programme presented by the International Monetary Fund, and convinced of the necessity to support that financial recovery programme and to take effective measures to alleviate the consequences, in particular the social consequences, of that adjustment policy, which is in the course of implementation, in order that the country may achieve appreciable economic results in the context of the programme,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations Inter-Agency Assessment Mission to Djibouti organized in April 1994 and led by UNDP, and, having considered its recommendations in the light of the new realities of the country, requesting the Mission to reformulate those recommendations in part and to apply them,

Noting with gratitude the support provided to relief and rehabilitation operations by various countries and by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

1. Declares its solidarity with the Government and people of Djibouti in the face of the devastating consequences of the torrential rains and floods and the new economic realities of Djibouti, resulting in particular from the continuing critical situation in the Horn of Africa, especially in Somalia;

2. Welcomes the approval by the Government of Djibouti of the structural adjustment programme presented by the International Monetary Fund and in that context appeals to all Governments, to international financial institutions, to the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and to non-governmental organizations to respond in an appropriate manner, as a matter of urgency, to the financial and material needs of the country;

3. Considers that implementation of the demobilization programme and of the national rehabilitation plan and reinforcement of democratic institutions require appropriate assistance in the form of financial and material support;

2/ A/50/311.

4. Recommends implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Inter-Agency Assessment Mission to Djibouti organized in April 1994 and led by UNDP, once they have been reconsidered;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts to make the international community aware of the difficulties faced by Djibouti;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the resources necessary for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Djibouti;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a study of the progress made with economic assistance to that country, in time for the question to be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.